

REMARKS

Claims 1, and 15-22 are currently pending in this application. No new matter was added to the amended claims, support for amendments may be found on page 4 lines 37-40.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 15 and 17-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shimoyashiro et al. It was asserted that

Shimoyashiro et al. disclose a process for automatically sorting a random assemblage of products into individual orders comprising the steps of providing at least one computer 110 having access to one or more data bases in which is stored order information for a variety of orders for the same or different products and the product identifier information; providing a random assemblage of products in response to the order information in which each of the products has a product identifier thereon; and scanning the product identifiers so as to sort the products based on a particular order and to an order builder zone for that order.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Applicants' invention claims a method of sorting a random assemblage of ophthalmic lenses into individual orders. *See Claim 1, as amended.* Shimoyashiro neither sorts ophthalmic lenses or sorts a random assemblage of any product.

Shimoyashiro discloses a method of producing products, particularly semi-conductor wafers, by carrying those partially produced products to different locations in a contained manufacturing environment along a carrier belt, 117. *See Shimoyashiro Fig. 13.* In this method, "the same classes of product group and process group are grouped, and storage boxes are provided in front of processing equipment to store wafers to be charged into the processing apparatus by product group and process group one by one or wafers processed by and moved out of the processing apparatus." *See Shimoyashiro column 5, lines 7-11 emphasis added.* *See also Shimoyashiro Fig. 12 illustrating the wafer storage boxes, 101, for a processing apparatus.* The manufacturing line Shimoyashiro produces different semi-conductor wafers, but as disclosed the patent, the same group of wafers are stored in storage boxes that are associated with different processing stations. Shimoyashiro teaches the production of products and not the random

assemblage of products in response to an individual order, Shimoyashiro teaches a method of producing different semi-conductor wafers on a single manufacturing platform by controlling the order of the flow of between different processing apparatuses, so that the "wafers flow as if on an exclusive line by product group." *See* Shimoyashiro, column 5, line 21-22.

Since Shimoyashiro does not teach sorting a random assemblage of products or sorting ophthalmic lenses, Shimoyashiro does not anticipate Applicants' invention as claimed in Claims 1, and 15-22. Applicants respectfully suggest that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) in light of Shimoyashiro, has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claim 16 was

rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Shimoyashiro et al.(cited by applicants) in view of Liff et al. Shimoyashiro et al. do not have a step of applying a label onto each product. However, Liff et al. disclose a processing for controlling a drug dispensing system having a step of applying a label 58 onto a product 32.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the process of Shimoyashiro et al. to have an additional step of label applicator as taught by Liff et al."

Applicants traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Applicants' invention claims a method of sorting a random assemblage of ophthalmic lenses into individual orders. *See* Claim 1, as amended. Liff neither sorts ophthalmic lenses or sorts a random assemblage of any product.

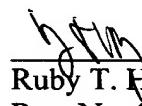
Liff discloses an automated drug dispensing system. The system of Liff dispenses and labels individual prescriptions of a single product but it does dispense assemblages of prescriptions. *See* Liff column 2, lines 58-60, and Fig 15, illustrating label information for a single product.

Since Liff does not disclose sorting a random assemblage of ophthalmic lenses into individual orders, the combination of Liff with Shimoyashiro would not render Applicants' claimed invention obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Applicants

respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing reasoning, Applicants submit that all pending claim are in condition to issue. A notice of allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes that an interview would expedite the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (732) 524-1024.

Respectfully submitted,


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